

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/014042

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
- ☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
- ☐ international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the **elements** of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:
- ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☒ the description:
- pages 1, 3-19 as originally filed/furnished
- pages* 2, 2a, 2b received by this Authority on 10.10.2005 with letter of 10.10.2005
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the claims:
- nos. _____ as originally filed/furnished
- nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- nos.* 1-25 received by this Authority on 10.10.2005 with letter of 10.10.2005
- nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the drawings:
- sheets 1/8-8/8 as originally filed/furnished
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

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Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement		
1.	Statement		
	Novelty (N)	Claims <u>1-13, 21</u>	YES
		Claims <u>14-20, 22-25</u>	NO
	Inventive step (IS)	Claims <u>1-13</u>	YES
		Claims <u>14-25</u>	NO
	Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-25</u>	YES
		Claims _____	NO
2.	Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)		
1.	Reference is made to the following documents:		
	D1: WO 03/025713 A (A. B. DICK COMPANY; DEXTER, BRIAN; ELLIS, CHARLES; HEARTBERG, MERVET; W) 27 March 2003 (2003-03-27)		
	D2: EP-A-1 133 159 (RISO KAGAKU CORPORATION) 12 September 2001 (2001-09-12)		
	D3: JP 10 105348 A (CANON INC) 24 April 1998 (1998-04-24)		
	D4: JP 11 196285 A (CANON INC) 21 July 1999 (1999-07-21)		
	D5: US 2002/057443 A1 (WATANABE YOSHIO) 16 May 2002 (2002-05-16)		
	D6: WO 01/77805 A (OCE PRINTING SYSTEMS GMBH; SCHWIER, HARTWIG) 18 October 2001 (2001-10-18).		
2.	INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 14 AND 24		
	The present application fails to satisfy the requirements of PCT Article 33(1) because the subject matter of claims 14 and 24 lacks novelty (PCT Article 33(2)).		
	/...		

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	<p>2.1 Document D1 (see paragraphs 37-39) discloses:</p> <p>a method for the processing of print data from at least one printed page, according to which method a print data stream with print data from one printed page is generated and first object properties are assigned to at least one region of said printed page;</p> <p>the print data are processed, image data from said region are determined and a preset graphics format is assigned to said image data (paragraph 41);,</p> <p>and</p> <p>the image data is further processed according to the preset graphics format.</p> <p>The subject matter of claim 14 therefore lacks novelty (PCT Article 33(2)).</p> <p>The subject matter of claim 14 also lacks novelty in the light of D6 (see page 7, line 37 to page 8, line 26 and page 12, line 36 to page 13, line 6).</p> <p>With regard to the feature concerning the assignment of a preselected graphics format, document D2 describes the same advantages as those according to the present application. A person skilled in the art would therefore regard the incorporation of said feature into the method described in D6 to be standard procedure for solving the problem of interest.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">/...</p>

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	<p>In consequence, the subject matter of claim 14 also fails to involve an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)).</p> <p>2.2 The same arguments apply likewise in respect of independent claim 24 since documents D1, D2 and D6 also describe a similar system that is suitable for carrying out the method according to claim 14.</p> <p>Thus, the subject matter of claim 24, likewise, lacks novelty (PCT Article 33(2)) and fails to involve an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)).</p> <p>3. Dependent claims 15-23 and 25 contain no features which, combined with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the PCT requirements for novelty and/or inventive step (see documents D1, D2, D3, D4, D5 and the relevant passages cited in the search report).</p> <p>4. Although claims 1 and 14, on the one hand, and claims 11, 12 and 24, on the other hand, are drafted as separate independent claims, they seem in fact to relate to the same subject matter, the only apparent difference being in the definition of the subject matter for which protection is sought.</p> <p>The claims are therefore not concise and fail to satisfy the requirements of PCT Article 6.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">/...</p>

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	<p>5. Document D1 is considered to be the prior art closest to the subject matter of claim 1. Said document discloses a method for the processing of print data, the subject matter of claim 1 differing therefrom by virtue of the selection of a part-region of a printed page in a print data stream and the assignment of specific object properties to the selected part-region of each printed page of the data stream.</p> <p>The subject matter of claim 1 is therefore novel (PCT Article 33(2)).</p> <p>The problem addressed by the present invention can consequently be regarded as the need to simplify the assignment of object properties to part-regions of a plurality of printed pages.</p> <p>The solution to the above problem, as proposed in claim 1 of the present application, involves an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)):</p> <p>the assignment of object properties to part-regions on each printed page is effected by a single assignment of object properties to one part of a region of printed page in a print data stream.</p> <p>The same arguments apply in a similar manner in respect of claims 11 and 12.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">/...</p>

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Claims 2-10 and 13 are dependent on claims 1 and 12 respectively and, in consequence, likewise satisfy the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and inventive step.